

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 138349

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MILITARY TO MILITARY DISCUSSIONS

REF: MANILA 9022

1. WITH REGARD TO POINTS RAISED YOUR MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR
MURPHY:

A. WE AGREE WITH YOUR AND HARDISTY'S CONCERN THAT CIVILIAN

PARTICIPATION ON OUR SIDE COULD DRAW IN PHIL CIVILIANS
AND INTRODUCE SERIES OF TROUBLESOME ISSUES. THEREFORE WE
SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO INCLUDE ANY CIVILIANS IN
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DISCUSSIONS AND SHOULD RESIST ANY PHIL EFFORTS TO DO SO.

B. MAJOR REPORTS ON TALKS SHOULD GO THROUGH EMBASSY CHAN-
NELS BUT WE RECOGNIZE SERVICES WILL USE THEIR OWN CHANNELS
ON OCCASION AS INSTRUCTED BY CINCPAC. WE AND EMBASSY MUST
CAREFULLY MONITOR.

C. AS YOU NOTED EARLIER, IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE DECISION REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF MCCLENDON AND DEBOBES UNTIL WE SEE HOW TALKS ARE TO DEVELOP. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE EXTENDED STAYS IN PHILIPPINES

SHOULD TALKS DRAG ON.

2. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES MUST FIND ACCOMMODATIONS ON REMAINING ISSUES IF WE ARE TO AVOID STERILE IMPASSE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM RESTING ON EXISTING POSITIONS. THIS ARGUES FOR A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WITH ADEQUATE TIME BETWEEN STEPS FOR USG TO COORDINATE ITS POSITIONS. YOU SHOULD ASSURE THAT MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEDULE MEETINGS FAR ENOUGH APART TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. ONCE THEY HAVE DISCUSSED AND PERHAPS EVEN ESTABLISHED AGENDA AND PROCEDURES IN JUNE 1 SESSION, WE WILL NEED AT LEAST ONE WEEK TO PREPARE USG APPROACH TO PROCESS. WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE TO ASSURE THAT INTERESTED PARTIES KNOW

IN ADVANCE WHAT MILITARY REPS PLAN TO SAY BUT AT THE SAME TIME DOES NOT INHIBIT THEM FROM EXPLORING BROAD RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

3. OUR MAJOR CONCERN NOW IS THAT THE ISSUES BE APPROACHED IN SUCH A WAY BY OUR SIDE AS TO FACILITATE A POSITIVE GOP RESPONSE TO MEETING OUR DETAILED REQUIREMENTS FOR UN-SECRET

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HAMPERED OPERATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION WERE THE DELIMITATION OF FACILITIES, THE INITIAL EMPHASIS SHOULD NOT BE ON WHERE TO DRAW THE BOUNDARY LINES BUT ON THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF US FORCES (E.G., SECUR-

ITY, CONTROL OF ANCHORAGES, SCHEDULING OF RANGES).

4. AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CINCPAC WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER INITIAL MEETING WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL DEAL WITH AGENDA. YOUR REPORTS ON THAT MEETING AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVANCING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HOPEFULLY WILL HELP US ALL TO FORMULATE NEXT STEPS IN THIS DELICATE SCENARIO. CHRISTOPHER

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